

## DETERMINING FACTORS FOR MIGRATION IN UTTARAKHAND

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### ABSTRACT

*Migration in India is both a historical and present phenomenon. Migration in India is mostly influenced by social structures and pattern of development. Various uneven development policies by all the governments since independence have accelerated the process of migration. In Uttarakhand, migration is one of the major contributors to urban growth, because of limited opportunities of economic development within the region; male members of family are migrating in large numbers to the urban and industrial areas in the plains in search of employment. This serious problem of migration leads to work burden on women after male out-migration. This paper aims to find out the perception of women about the push determinants of migration. A total of 220 respondents were studied in the present research. It was evident from the result that the respondents perceived that lack of employment opportunities as the major push determinant. It was also found that respondents agreed that the other push determinants like inability to meet basic needs, increased household expenses, inability to meet educational expenses and medical expenses were other main reasons to leave the rural place. Rural-urban migration can be controlled on a large scale if the government will provide all kind of support to the rural migrants for getting their livelihoods and provide them basic amenities for a descent standard of living at the rural areas as like as its urban counterpart.*

**KEY WORDS:** Migration, Push determinants, Employment, Youth & Women

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### INTRODUCTION

Migration is the movement of people from one place to another. In recent times, it is done mainly in search of employment opportunities to make a better living. In India, migration can be measured on two aspects, firstly it is change in the place of last residence and secondly changes in place of birth. It has been noted that most important reason behind migration is lack of employment opportunities resulting low standard of living conditions among different socio-economic groups at village level. There are two types of factors which trigger migration process in any area and these are known as push and pull factors. The push factors are those which compel a person to leave that place and go to some other place due to different reasons. The common push factors are low agricultural productivity, unemployment and underdevelopment, poor economic conditions, lack of opportunities for advancement, non-availability of abundant natural resources and frequent occurrence of natural calamities in the area. Mechanized methods of production into agricultural sector also reduce labour requirement in rural areas that leads to migration of people from native place to another place. In rural areas, people do subsistence agriculture for their survival and are completely dependent on climatic conditions. It is difficult to earn a living in

such harsh circumstances, if the climatic conditions are not favorable to them. So, it can be seen that non-availability of alternative sources of income in rural area is also prime factor for migration.

The pull factors are those which attract the migrants to an area. The major pull factors can include better employment opportunities, higher salaried job, better health facilities, better working environment and attractive amenities etc. of the destination.

Mortality, fertility and migration are three components of population change. Out of these three, migration also plays a vital role in changing the composition of human population of any nation. The two broad categories of migration are internal migration and international migration. Internal migration is the movement of people from one place to other place within a country. On the other hand international migration is the movement of people from one country to another in order to take up better employment opportunities which are not available in the native country.

## CURRENT STATUS

Migration in search of livelihood is a stark reality in India today. The bleak livelihood scenario in backward, hilly, tribal, desert, drought-prone, rain-fed, flood-affected, high-density or conflict ridden areas has led to the emergence of migration as a survival strategy for a large number of poor people in the country. In India, the number of internal migrants deriving their livelihood out of seasonal migration is estimated to be more than 100 million. Most of these migrants work in the informal sector. Generally they do not get any social security and legal protection. In case of outstate migration lack of portability of entitlements across State borders compel them to lead a sub-human existence because these migrants are devoid of access to basic services and labor rights.

Uttarakhand state suffers from the serious problem of male out-migration. The severity of the situation can be calculated from the fact that about 9 percent of the villages of the state are not having a single inhabitant. According to Census 2011, Out of the 16,793 villages of Uttarakhand only 1,053 have no inhabitants at all and it is noticeable that another 405 have a population of less than 10. The main reason behind increasing number of such uninhabited villages has reportedly risen particularly after the tragic earthquake and flash floods of 2013. (DTH, 2016)

The remote rural belts of Uttarakhand have in recent years been emptying out with such fierce urgency that activists now say the state has a staggering 3,600 villages which are virtually uninhabited. Now, though, there's a movement underway and various efforts have been initiated to see if the migration can be stopped. (TOI Report, 26 Sep, 2015). Unlike another neighboring hill state, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand neither has hospital in many villages nor doctors in them. The schools, too, are in pitiable condition.

In the last decade Uttarakhand state has witnessed a high rate of economic growth. The major share of this increased revenue has been received by districts that lie in the plains of the state. Out of the 13 districts in the state 9 are situated in hill regions of Uttarakhand. The Uttarakhand state government's Annual Plan 2013-14 clearly shows that the per capita income in the hills is much lower than in the plains. According to the state's Directorate of Economics and Statistics, it is surprising to see that only Nainital, one of the hill districts has an average per capita income higher than the state average while the three districts Dehradun, Udham Singh Nagar and Haridwar, in the plains occupy the top three positions. Economic prosperity of the Uttarakhand state has largely been limited to the three districts in the plains. Hill districts are contributing the most to the migrant labour force due to non-availability of economic opportunities in the area.

## **OBJECTIVES**

Keeping in perspective of increased migration from the hill state of Uttarakhand and its impact on left behind women study on impact of male out-migration on work and status of hill women was conducted. This paper focuses on the perception of women about the push determinants of migration.

## **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

To study the factors and impact of male out-migration on hill women of Uttarakhand, the present study focused on two of the thirteen districts of Uttarakhand i.e. Pauri Garhwal district and Almora. These districts comprise largely of the rural areas which have mainly the hilly terrains. The districts lack infrastructural facilities and lack industries and other sources of employment. Apart from tourism, agriculture is a main form of occupation, but is hampered by the poor environmental settings which results in the huge migration from the district and mainly from its rural areas. The present study was concentrated in the hill rural areas and the target group comprises of its residents. A total of 220 respondents were studied in the present research. For the study interview schedule method was used for extracting primary data.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS**

Data presented in the table 1 showed the perception about push determinants of migration because migrant members might be facing many problems in the village which were making their living difficult. Push determinants were strongly forcing people to move out of the village even though they did not want to leave their family behind and to settle down in urban areas. It is evident from the table 1 that majority of the respondents (78.64 per cent) were agreed that crop failure due to heavy rainfall causes migration of farmers to the cities. Lack of employment opportunities in the village forcing the rural people to migrate constituted (73.64 per cent) which was followed by inability to meet basic needs with existing income causes rural urban migration (74.09 per cent). Few other reasons were social caste and status related struggle in village causes migration to the cities (54.55 per cent). And half of the respondents (53.64 per cent) were supporting that rural people migrate if they cannot clear off their family debts with the existing income.

Results of respondents on perception on various push determinants that compelled rural people to move out of their villages were furnished in table 1. All of the respondents perceived that lack of employment opportunities as the major push determinant. It has also been noticed while interacting with respondents that majority of the parents do not want their children to stay back in the village and do agriculture as it is non-remunerative and drudgery in the study area. Agriculture in hills does not provide food throughout the year as it is rain fed with scattered lands without irrigation.

The results in the table 2 clearly depict that that, majority (82.73 per cent) of the respondents had moderate level of agree ness on perception of push determinants of migration followed by low (13.18 per cent) and high (4.09 per cent) level of perception on push determinants of migration.

The employment opportunities in the villages were very few and people generated irregular and less income. This indicated an increased dependence on wage-earning occupations and decrease in dependence on agricultural works in the second generation.

Table 1 also showed that respondents also agreed that the other push determinants like increased household expenses, inability to meet educational expenses and medical expenses (which might be due to unproductive agriculture), peer group influence, lack of or improper coverage of government employment guarantee schemes like MNREGA

(Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme) and inability to clear off their family debts were also the main reasons that forced male members to migrate to other places. Other reasons like when a person faces family conflict he would like to leave his family and to migrate to other place and reduced employment due to increase the use of farm machinery were also some other reasons perceived by them. This is in conformity with the results of Angba (2003), Gerard (2003), Deshingkar (2003), Mobile Creches Publication (2008), Singh *et al.* (2011), Debasis and Pravat (2013), Kyaing (2013), Prashant (2013), Madhu and Uma (2014) and Santosh Kumar (2014).

## CONCLUSIONS

Migration and related issues are one of the major thrust of research nowadays. In spite of number of studies have been conducted, still there is a lot issues related to the migration have not been addressed. The main cause and concern behind the migration is the economic factor; so agriculture and non-farm sector at rural landscape should be given the top priority to control migration. Hence, the government should kick off inclusive rural policies through which credit support and rights based service delivery and other services can be assured to the target demography. Rural-urban migration can be controlled on a large scale if the government will provide all kind of support to the rural migrants for getting their livelihoods and provide them basic amenities for a decent standard of living at the rural areas as like as its urban counterpart. The government should develop public policy by integrating social inclusion in milieu of rural diversity for the wellbeing of all the segments of rural community.

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**Table 1: Distribution of Respondents According to Perception on Push Determinants of Migration (N=220)**

Sl. No	Push Determinants	Agree		Partially Agree		Disagree	
		n	%	n	%	n	%
1.	Crop failure due to heavy rainfall causes migration of farmers to the cities	173	78.64	47	21.36	0	0
2.	Crop loss due to severe drought causes migration of farmers to the cities	81	36.82	137	62.27	2	0.91
3.	Lack of employment opportunities in the village forcing the rural people to migrate	162	73.64	58	26.36	0	0
4.	Inability to meet basic needs with existing income causes rural urban migration	163	74.09	57	25.91	0	0
5.	Inability to meet educational expenses of children causes migration	73	33.18	146	66.36	1	0.46
6.	Migration occurs due to inability of people to meet medical expenses of their family	143	65	76	34.54	1	0.46
7.	Rural people migrate if they cannot clear off their family debts with the existing income	118	53.64	97	44.09	5	2.27
8.	Social caste and status related struggle in village causes migration to the cities	120	54.55	94	42.73	6	2.72
9.	Peer group of rural people influence them to migrate to cities	106	48.18	110	50	4	1.82
10.	Increased use of farm machinery reduced employment opportunities	114	51.82	89	40.45	17	7.73

	in villages, which is forcing people to migrate						
11.	Increase in household expenses, the rural people tend to take decision to migrate	99	45	98	44.55	23	10.45
12.	When a person faces family Conflict he would like to leave his family and to migrate to other place	102	46.36	85	38.64	33	15
13.	Lack of or improper coverage of Government employment guarantee schemes like MGNREGA play important role in taking the decision to whether to migrate or not	85	38.64	99	45	36	16.36

**Table 2: Distribution of Respondents According to Perception on Push Determinants of Migration: Pooled Data on Push Determinants (N=220)**

S. No.	Category	No. of respondents	Percentage
1.	Low (Up to 29)	29	13.18
2.	Moderate (30-35)	182	82.73
3.	High (>35)	9	4.09